Pearl River
1852
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THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

PEARL RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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UNION CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, MISS.
SEPTEMBER 10th, 1853.

The Pearl River Baptist Association met, pursuant to adjournment, with the Union Church, Pike county, Miss. Elder Jesse Crawford preached the Introductory Sermon, from Pauls' Epistle to the Ephesians, 5th chap., 25, 26 and 27th verses.

After a short recess, the Association was called to order, by the Moderator, Elder Jesse Crawford, prayer by Elder N. Robertson. In consequence of the death of N. Finley, Clerk, Sam'l B. Mullen was appointed Clerk, *pro tem.*

Brethren W. Barnes and Toler were appointed reading clerks, and Brethren Simeon Ross, Hosea Davis and H. Hooker, receivers of contributions.

Called for and read the letters from the Churches, enrolled the names of their Delegates, and minuted their statistics, as is shown in the following table.

The following are the total amounts of the Statistical Table on the next page: Baptised, 195; Received by letter, 77; Restored, 8; Dismissed, 91; Excluded 17; Dead, 26; Whites, 1014; Blacks, 233; Total, 1617; No. Minutes, 867; Association purposes $70 40; Missionary purposes, 193 00.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Delegates.	Counties.	Post Offices.	Baptised	Re'd by letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Dead	Whites	Blacks	Total	No. Minutes	Association purposes
Antioch	J E Pounds Hosea Davis	Marion	China Grove	20	0	0				50	46	96	30	86
Bethany	Jas Mikell H Hooker	Lawrence	Monticello	2	4	2	2		2			91	40	8
Bahala	J Furr	"	Raysville	0	0							18	20	5 55
Bethlehem	J Deer	Simpson	Westville	0	5					19	2	21	15	3
Bethel	W C Maxwel E Andrews	Lawrence	Monticello	5	2		1		1			25	25	5
Copiah	H H Guines B Keathly	Copiah	Georgetown	5	2		2	2	4	4	9	53	30	4
Dry Creek	D Webb D Thomas	Rankin	Steen's Creek	17	6		4	1		54	4	58	25	5
Ebenezer	W Barnes E Bass	Covington	Wilksville	1	1		4			19	2	21	20	4
Fair Rever	H Davis I Kees	Lawrence	Monticello	1	0					38	6	44	25	10
Galilee	G H Barrett T Hamilton	Copiah	Georgetown	0	1		4			21	3	24	15	4
Hebron	E Owens B Buckly	Lawrence	Westville	4	0		3		1	31	9	40	25	5
Hepsibah	W Fortenb'ry D Sarborogh	"	Monticello	4	3	1	5	1				34	25	5
Harmony	W Williams J Poke	"	Mt. Carmel	2	3		6			28	6	34	25	4
Hopewell	J W Ferguson J G Bailey	Copiah	Sandiffer's	5	4		4			30	3	33	20	5
Mt Zion	J P Norwood E W Norwood	Simpson	Mt. Zion	0	3	2	5			37	21	58	20	4
Mages Creek	T Gibson J Holmes	Pike	China Grove	0	1		3			46	4	50	25	6
Mountain C'k	S Brinson	Rankin	Steen's Creek	35	5		1	1	2	51	3	54	20	4
Macedonia	W May	Simpson	Westville	24	2		2	1				55	30	5
New Chapel	E Hodges	Pike	Monticello	0	0	2	2		1			11	12	3
New Zion	C K Fortenbery J Lewis	Marion	Conley's	1	1				1	60	9	69	30	8
New Hope	J W Hornsby	Covington	Williamsb'rg	1	0	1	2			33		33	25	5
New Zion	E Albritton J Keen	Simpson	Westville	4	2		9	2	3	39	1	40	10	3
Palestine	R D Midleton	"	Sandiffer's	4	3		3	2	2	63	10	73	35	4
Pleasant Hill	J Bush	"	Westville	0	1		2	1		12	1	13	15	3
Silver Creek	J Crawford W Elsey	Pike	Holmesville	27	9		4	1	1	104	36	140	50	11
Strong River	W Toler F M Young	Simpson	Westville	4	2		1			47	18	63	20	5
Silver Creek	S Ross J D Cannon	Lawrence	Monticello	4	2		1		3			41	30	5
Society Hill	M M Fortenb'ry H Pope	"	"	19	4		6			52	10	62	50	7
Steen's Creek		Rankin	Steen's Creek	4	4		1	1		40	19	59	25	8 55
Sardis	S B Mullen D Fleming	Copiah	Gallatin	1	0			3				40	20	4
Shiloah	J B Carlisle	Lawrence	Monticello	1	0					26	6	32	15	4
Union	J J Sandiffer J Russion	Pike	Conerley's	0	1		2		5	76	1	77	50	7
Zion Hill	J Gulledge	Rankin	Cato Springs	0	6		2	1		24	4	28	20	3
Union Hall	Jas Campbell	Lawrence	Brook Haven									11	12	5
Read Creek	Jas Bounds	Harrison	Flint Creek									16	13	2

String Run - Sidet = Pool c
16 ≠ 37 Churches
1849

The Association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year; breth. J. W. Hornsly and J. Mikel, who reported that Elder Jesse Crawford was elected Moderator, Rev. Sam'l B. Mullen, Clerk, and Simeon Ross, Treasurer.

The rules of decorum of this Ass. were called for and read.

The Moderator invited ministering brethren to seats with us, and to participate with us in our deliberations.

Received Correspondence from Sister Associtions, and the hand of fellowship extended to their Messenger as follows, viz:

Ebenezer.—Elders N. Robertson and S. W. Dale, a letter with a package of minutes.

Miss.—Elds. Z. Reeves and W. Clark, a letter and package of minutes.

Mt. Pisgah.—Rev. John Bough, a letter and package of minutes.

Miss. River.—W. B Wall, a letter and package of minutes.

Union.—Rev. Elisha Douglass, a letter and package of minutes.

The Committee to arrange preaching during the meeting, was appointed by the Moderator as follows: J. J. Sandiffer, W. Barnes, E. Owens, W. C. Maxwell and H. H. Guynes,

Who reported that, Rev. W. Fortenberry preach first, and Rev. Sam'l B. Mullen follow by a missionary sermon, and that Elder N. Robertson preach first in the afternoon, and Elder A. McKenzie close.

The Association adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday morning; concluding prayer by Elder Alexander McKenzie.

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Exercises on the Sabbath.

The congregation assembled on Sabbath at the stand, and Eld's W. Fortenberry, Sam'l B. Mullen, N. Robertson and A. McKenzie, addressed them in the order of their names The congregation was large and very attentive, and we hope that the word preached may spring up, and bear fruit unto life everlasting.

Monday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by W. Wall.

On motion the roll was called.

On motion the liberty of abscence was granted to E Owens and his colleague.

Arranged correspodence with other bodies as follows:

Brother H. Hooker to write to the Ebenezer, and Rev. W. Wil-

liams and Jas. Mikel, messengers.

Bro. W. Barnes to write to the Miss Association, and Brothers W. Fortenberry and W. C. Maxwell messengers.

Bro. Brenson to write to the Miss. River, and Thos. Gibson and J. Pounds messengers.

Bro. W. Williams to write to the Mt Pisgah and Bro J. Mikel to the Union.

Bro J. W. Hornsby to write, and Eld's J. Crawford and W. Fortenberry messengers.

The committee on preaching reported that the following named brethren preach, on Monday in the order of their names, viz: Rev. John Bough and Elder Z. Reeves in the fore-noon, and Elders A. McKenzie and W. Wall in the after-noon.

Corresponding letters called for, read and adopted.

The following brethren were appointed a committee on finance: H. Hooker, Hosea Davis, and Simeon Ross.

On motion Brother Holms was granted leave of absence.

In consequence of scarcity of ministers, therefore

Resolved, That we correspond with the Mt. Pisgah and Union Associations by letter only.

On montion

Resolved, That we continue correspondence with the convention of the Baptist denomination of the State of Mississippi.

On motion requested Brother N. Robertson to write a corresponding letter to said convention.

On motion appointed Thos. Gibson to preach the introductory sermon, and that Brother W. Williams be his alternate.

On motion appointed Brother Sam'l B. Mullen to superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes.

Agreed to hold our next meeting with Society Hill Church, Lawrence co. on Saturday preceeding 2nd Lord's day in Sept, 1854.

Took up petitions on letters of dismission from the following Churches, viz: Strong River, Sardis, Steen's Creek, Hebron, Dry Creek, Hopewell, Bethlehem, Pleasant Hill, Newzion, Macedonia, Mountain Creek, Mt. Zion, Galilee, Zion Hill, Copiah, Palestine.

The committee on finances reported that they examined the Treasurer's report, and found it to be correct, as is shown in the following table:

Report of the Financial Committe.

Debits.

In the hands of the Treasurer,	$00 00	
Contributions of the Churches,	173 00	
Returned by Sam'l B. Mullen,	11 00	
" " Jesse Crawford,	7 50	
" " N. Finley,	5 00	
Balance on hand,	76 42	—272 92

Credit.

Paid N. Finley, clk, for distributing minutes,	$15 00	
" " " printing "	35 00	
Cader Price,	9 00	
W. Fortenberry	7 50	—$66 50
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of		206 42

Debits.

Received for Missionary purposes,	$ 31 95	
Ballance on hand last year,	201 63	—233 58

Credits.

Paid E. Shepherd,	$126 00	
" W. Fortenberry,	86 20	—212 20
Which leaves a balance of		$ 21 38

Respectfully submited H. Hooker, H. Davis, S. Ross.

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Financial Committee.

Missionary business. Called for reports;

Whereon the Missionary board made the following, which was ordered to be printed in these minutes, and reads as follows:—

To the Pearl River Baptist Association.

Dear Brethren: It is with sincere gratitude that your Missionary Board reports to you a statement of their transactions during the past associational year. At our meetings, which have been somewhat frequent, there has been generally a large majority of the members present. One meeting only failed for want of a quorum, which was occasioned by the inclemency of the weather. But we feel assured that the great interest committed to our charge has not suffered the least detriment, for want of faithfulness in those to whom they were intrusted.

Immediately after the adjournment of the association, the Board

met and organized by electing brother Wm. Williams, President, and James Mikell, Secretary, and a few days after held their first regular session at Bethany, for the purpose of making such preparatory arrrangements as might be practicable. And accordingly directed the secretary to open a correspondence with brother Muse and brother Wm. E. Sheppard and request them to meet with us at our next meeting.

Our session in November was one of deep interest, and your Board was favored with good counsel, as well as the presence of brethren Muse and Sheppard, and were enabled to obtain some valuable information in relation to the field intended to be occupied by the Board. Brother Muse declined presenting his name for the considera'ion of the Board, and we were happy to have it in our power to appoint brother Wm. Fortenberry, who consented to labor for the Board as missionary on the waters of Pearl River, on the eastern side from the vicinity of Columbia as far down as his time would permit him to go. And we hoped he would be able to labor as much as ten days in each month, commencing with January of the present year and closing with August. Your Board take pleasure in saying that brother Fortenberry, by the blessing of Providence, has fulfilled his engagements with fidelity and punctuality, and we have felt our hearts encouraged and our hands strengthened for our work, by the cheering accounts we have received from his reports. His labors have been bestowed mostly on Little River, Bolechitto, Red Creek, Wolf Creek, and near the mouth of Holliday's Creek. At most of these places there have been generally good congregations in attendance, and the manifestations of a serious interest felt by many, as reported by our misssonary, affords every desirable encouragement to prosecute the work in this important field, with unremitted and if possible augmented efforts, as the ripened fruits of this mission. Bro Fortenberry has baptized four persons at Red Creek, and two at upper Little River. In addition to this, we may regard as among the best results of our efforts, the reclamation of the Red Creek church. This church had been led so far astray as to prohibit the preaching of the gospel there, except by such as are opposed to missionary operation, and to declare a non-fellowship with all who are engaged in the work of spreading the gospel.

These obnoxious resolutions, (which however they did not strictly enforce) they have recinded, and given us ample demonstration of their sincerity, by contributing twenty-one dollars and five cents to your Board. Bro Fortenberry has in his different trips traveled

one thousand two hundred and sixty-six miles, preached 76 sermons and exhibited the word of life to 2566, intelligent persons, during the seventy one and a half days he has been employed in your service.

Your board cannot repress the belief that there remains fruit yet to be gathered from the seed sown in the labors which we have been recounting. At the same session at which brother Fortenberry was appointed a missionary on the eastern waters of Pearl, we also appointed brother W. E. Sheppard a missionary on Leaf River, with the privilege of bestowing his labors on both sides of the river from the vicinity of Monroe as far down as circumstances would justify him in going. Your board regret very much that the short and tabular form of brother Sheppard's reports does not furnish us with the necessary information to enable us to present an interesting view of this field of labor.

Immediately after his appointment, brother Sheppard engaged in the work, and continued in our service till our meeting on the 11th of June, during which time he labored for 84 days, preached 44 sermons, traveled 703 miles, and baptized 3 persons. In these services it was his happy privilege to address the gospel to about 1,614 persons. His congregrations were generally as large as could be expected, and in many places exceeded any thing that could be reasonably anticipated. Many had the privilige of hearing the gospel who had not enjoyed it but a very few times in the course of many years, and a deep interest was evinced in many places. Most of his labors were performed on the eastern side of the river, and your board are of opinion that his field embraced chiefly the waters of Black Creek, Talahaly, Bogue Homo, Thompson's Creek, Adkinson's Creek, with the immediate borders of the river as far down as Salem High School. Your board were aware that the engagements entered into with brethten Fortenberry and Sheppard, if fully complied with on their part, would require a larger amount of pecuniary means than were at the command of the board; but their great anxiety to send the gospel to our destitute fellow-citizens so near to us, forbid them to refuse so good an opportunity of securing the services of these ministers. At a meeting held by the board at Bethany on the 14th of May, it became necessary for the board to adopt some measures in reference to meeting such demands as in all probability would force themselves upon us before the meeting of the Association. It was made known to the board, that the board of the baptist convention would assist the board of the Ebenezer Association with means to sustain a missionary in the field, uccupied by

brother Sheppard, and that the brethren of that Association would probably be glad to obtain the services of brother Sheppard. After mature consideration therefore, and upon the advice of intelligent brethren; brother Sheppard concluded it would be his duty to resign his appointment under your board, and accept one already offered from the board of the convention; and accordingly on the 11th of June his resignation was tendered and received; so that your Board have not been straitened for want of means to remunerate their laborers.

Your Board feels assured that it will produce sensations of pleasure in the breasts of the Association, corresponding with what they themselves feel, to learn that even a partial supply of the word of life has been dispersed in that deplorably destitute field on the waters of Leaf River during the past year. Since June brother Shepperd, as missionary of the convention has been laboring there under the direction of the board of the Ebenezer Association, and brother John P. Martin has been laboring there also under appointment of the Ebenezer.

In conclusion, your board would say that they have taken great pleasure in performing the duties assigned them, and have endeavored to discharge them judiciously and faithfully; and that they feel much rejoiced to see the missionary spirit reviving in the churches around the seat of their transactions.

We refer you to your treasurer for the state of your finances.

In behalf of the Board. WM. WILLIAMS, Pres.

JAMES MIKELL, Sec'y.

The further account of brother Sheppared's labor, which I supposed could be furnished by me, is not inserted in this report, owing to its having been misplaced.

SAM'L B. MULLEN, Clerk.

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Appointments.

The following Breth were appointed a Missionary Board, viz: Jas. Mikel, M. M. Fortenberry, W. Barnes, N. W. Lee, F. M. Pake, H. Hooker, G. Burkett, J. Bass, W. Williams, and C. M. Stringer.

On motion appointed Elder Jesse Crawford, to preach the missionary sermon at our next meeting. Then adjourned.

JESSE CRAWFORD, Moderator,

SAM'L B. MULLEN, Clerk.

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